

I claim:

1 1. A method of displaying an image, comprising:
2 transmitting a first portion of first video image data to a first video memory in a
3 first display device; and
4 updating the first video memory with the first portion;
5 wherein the first portion contains video data representing a part of the first video
6 image data that has changed since a previous transmission to the first
7 display device, and the first portion excludes a substantial part of the first
8 video image data that is unchanged since the previous transmission to the
9 first display device.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising refreshing a first displayed image in
2 the first display device from the first video memory.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting a first portion is repeated at regular
2 intervals.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting a first portion is repeated at irregular
2 intervals.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said irregular intervals are based on detecting a
2 change in the first video image data since a previous transmission to the first display
3 device.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 transmitting a second portion of second video image data to a second video
3 memory in a second display device; and
4 updating the second video memory with the second portion;
5 wherein the second portion contains video data representing a part of the second
6 video image data that has changed since a previous transmission to the
7 second display device, and the second portion excludes a substantial part
8 of the second video image data that is unchanged since the previous
9 transmission to the second video display device.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first portion and the second portion are
2 transmitted over a same communications channel.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the communications channel is a bus.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the communications channel is a daisy chain
cable.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the first portion and the second portion are
2 formatted differently.

1 11. The method of claim 7, wherein the first portion and the second portion are
2 formatted alike.

1 12. The method of claim 7, wherein the first portion includes an address to identify
2 the first video device and the second portion includes an address to identify the second
3 video device.

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1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 transmitting a second portion of data to the first display device;
3 time-stamping the first and second portions before transmission; and
4 synchronizing a presentation of the first and second portions based on the time-
5 stamping.

1 14. A display device, comprising:
2 a memory to store image data for display of a video image; and
3 a receiver to detect a predetermined device address in a received data stream
4 containing video data for updating a portion of the stored image data;
5 wherein the video data includes a part of the image data that has changed since a
6 previously received data stream, and the video data excludes a substantial
7 part of the image data that is unchanged since the previously received data
8 stream.

1 15. The display device of claim 14, further comprising a protocol handler to interpret
2 the received data stream.

1 16. The display device of claim 14, further comprising a timing generator to generate
2 timing signals for a display.

1 17. The display device of claim 16, further comprising a control circuit to configure
2 the timing generator.

1 18. The display device of claim 14, further comprising a scalar circuit to change a
2 granularity of the video image.

1 19. The display device of claim 18, further comprising a control circuit to configure
2 the scalar circuit.

1 20. The display device of claim 14, further comprising a display interface to at least
2 one of a CRT and a flat panel.

1 21. The display device of claim 14, further comprising at least one of a CRT and a
2 flat panel.

1 22. A system for displaying video images, comprising:
2 a communications channel;
3 first and second display devices coupled to the communications channel; and
4 a graphics controller coupled to the communications channel to update a first
5 portion of a first image displayed by the first display device and to update
6 a second portion of a second image displayed by the second display
7 device.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein:
2 the first portion is substantially a part of the first image that has changed since a
3 previous update of the first image; and
4 the second portion is substantially a part of the second image that has changed
5 since a previous update of the second image.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein:
2 the first display device includes a first address decoder to decode a first device
3 address in a first message received over the communications channel; and

4 the second display device includes a second address decoder to decode a second
5 device address in a second message received over the communications
channel.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein a protocol of the first message is different than a
2 protocol of the second message.

1 26. The system of claim 24, further comprising a non-display device coupled to the
2 communications channel to receive non-video data.

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